S.L. 2010-15 (HOUSE BILL 1710): Fishery Management Plan Supplements

2009-2010 General Assembly

Committee:		**Date:**	July 20, 2010
Introduced by:	Representatives Wainwright and Underhill	**Prepared by:**	Jeff Hudson
Analysis of:	S.L. 2010-15		Staff Attorney

SUMMARY: S.L. 2010-15 (House Bill 1710) provides an expedited process by which the Marine Fisheries Commission may supplement Fishery Management Plans.

House Bill 1710 was a recommendation of the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture.

[As introduced, House Bill 1710 was identical to S1277, as introduced by Senator Albertson.]

CURRENT LAW:

Under current law, the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) adopts Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for all commercially or recreationally significant marine fisheries. The FMPs must be reviewed by the MFC at least once every 5 years. Development of FMPs includes the following steps:

- The Chair of the MFC must appoint a fishery management plan advisory committee to assist with the development of the FMP.

- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) must consult with regional advisory committees.

- The MFC must review comments or recommendations submitted by the regional advisory committees.

- The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (Secretary) must report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture (Seafood and Aquaculture) within 30 days of the completion or substantial revision of a FMP and Seafood and Aquaculture has 30 days within which to comment on the FMP.

BILL ANALYSIS:

S.L. 2010-15 provides that if the Secretary determines that it is in the interest of the long-term viability of a fishery, the Secretary may authorize the MFC to develop temporary management measures to supplement an existing FMP without going through the steps outlined above. During the next review period for a FMP supplemented by temporary management measures, the MFC would either have to incorporate the temporary management measures into the FMP or the temporary management measures would automatically expire.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective June 23, 2010.

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